



Annual Report

Wem Rural Parish Council
May 2017 to April 2018

The Parish Council has an up-to-date website and issues newsletters to keep residents informed, but it is recommended good practice for each household to receive a copy of the Chairman's Annual Report. Cllr Jon Murgatroyd gave his verbal report at the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2018 which is reproduced here:

Elections to the Parish Council are held every 4 years and took place in May 2017. The Council lost Bob Parsons and Trevor Hayward who both resigned for personal reasons just before the elections. Gillian Coleman, whilst elected, could not sign her acceptance of office again for personal reasons. The Council thanks all 3 for their service to the community. All remaining Councillors were re-elected and the Council has successfully co-opted new Councillors: Stella Whyte, Ruth Williams and Georgia Bruce.

Communication with parishioners remains a focal point for the Council. Three editions of the newsletter have been issued since the last APM including two consultation papers relating to our future planning policy and the other to a future relief road around Wem. The website is regularly updated, and we are currently looking at introducing regular updates via social media.

The Council continued to provide community assistance through the grant schemes. Support for Coton Cricket Club in Spring 2017 enabled them to invest in new training equipment and the Council supported 8 local groups with grant funding ranging from £200 to £700. The Council continues to look to support a number of larger projects utilising the Community Led Housing fund both within our Parish and also Wem Town.

Finally, after 4 years, Airband's deployment of high-speed wireless

broadband across Shropshire is starting. Wem Rural is one of the early beneficiaries with a new Wi-Fi mast being erected in Edstaston as we speak, and hopefully planned to go live in June 18!

Over 50 planning applications across the Parish have been received for consultation. With regard to Planning Policy, after much deliberation and consultation the Council has agreed to allow some open market development in the Parish.

During the year there have been some large scale and lengthy highways maintenance schemes in the Parish which resulted in meetings with Shropshire about issues at Barkers Green and Horton. Following concerns raised by residents over time, the Council commissioned speed monitoring at Quina Brook. However, the results did not show enforcement was required. The Council continues to report potholes and other highways issues to Shropshire Council on behalf of residents and businesses.

More recently, the Parish Council has driven the re-launch of the Wem Economic Forum, bringing on board a wide group of interested parties. It is hoped that the Council can use the Forum as a vehicle to promote Wem business to a wider audience.

Finally, the Council has achieved the Foundation Level of the Local Council Award Scheme. Achieving this level demonstrates the Council meets the requirements for operating lawfully and according to standard practice. The Council is now working towards the next level, Quality level.

If you have any questions on the Report, please contact the Council Chair, Liz Vernon or the Parish Clerk, Carole Warner. Contact details on the left hand side of this page.

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For further
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Annual Financial Report 2017/18

Payments	Actual 2016/17	Actual 2017/18	Budget 2018/19
General Admin			
Clerk Salary / Allowance / Emp NI	£7,625.23	£8,647.25	£10,750.00
Admin Expenses	£869.94	£1,213.78	£1,250.00
Audit	£379.75	£272.50	£300.00
Newsletter	£1,058.98	£2,323.07	£2,500.00
Website	£75.00	£255.00	£300.00
Insurance	£481.81	£530.94	£575.00
Subscriptions	£626.31	£667.86	£725.00
Training	£23.00	£383.00	£500.00
Elections	£500.00	£400.00	£0.00
Other			
Community Plan Actions	£0.00	£1,000.00	£4,500.00
Neighbourhood Fund	£228.82	£0.00	£0.00
Grants	£900.00	£900.00	£0.00
General Power of Competence	£900.00	£1,300.00	£3,000.00
Community-Led Housing Grant	£11,577.00	£6,396.84	£0.00
VAS	£0.00	£0.00	£550.00
Repairs	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00
Drainage Ash Grove/Round Meadow	£17.00	£0.00	£0.00
Play Equipment Inspection	£0.00	£66.50	£75.00
Diamond Jubilee Celebrations	£562.62	£0.00	£0.00
Contingency			£700.00
Total Excl. VAT	£25,525.46	£24,356.74	£26,025.00
VAT	£2,270.86	£953.53	£400.00
Total Incl. VAT	£27,796.32	£25,310.27	£26,425.00

Receipts	Actual 2016/17	Actual 2017/18	Budget 2018/19
Precept	£22,700.00	£25,000.00	£26,000.00
Interest	£317.09	£155.60	£75.00
VAT Refund	£187.18	£3,199.41	£400.00
Neighbourhood Funds	£490.32	£0.00	£0.00
Sub Total	£23,694.59	£28,355.01	£26,475.00
Transfer from/to Reserves	£4,101.73	£3,044.74	£50.00
Total	£27,796.32	£25,310.27	£26,425.00

Balances as at 31 March 2018

Reconciled Bank Balances

Current Account	£5,169.36
Deposit Account	£25,254.25
Community Account	£519.31
Grant Account	£46,735.20
Net Assets	£77,678.12

Represented by Reserves

Balance as at 1 April 2018	£74,633.38
Less excess receipts over payments	£3,044.74
Balance as at 31 March 2017	£77,678.12

Reserves Breakdown as at 31 March 2018

Earmarked Reserves

Clerk's Salary	£3,000.00
Legal Fees	£2,250.00
Website	£1,425.00
VAS	£2,200.00
Election Fees	£300.00
Community Plan Actions	£1,550.00
Bus Shelter VAT	£516.00
Neighbourhood Fund	£348.02
Community-Led Housing	£46,230.16
Community Grant	£600.00
Diamond Jubilee Fund	£519.31
	£58,938.49

Contingency Reserves

	£18,739.63
	£77,678.12